

***H.B. No. 5037: AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2023***

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee and General Assembly,

My testimony today focuses on one line item in the Governor's proposed state budget for fiscal year 2023 within the State Department of Education. Should the proposed appropriation for Excess Cost be passed as proposed **it will represent the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year this item has been held flat at \$140,619,782**. This does not even represent an inflationary adjustment over time and is disconnected from the reality in which students and districts have been operating within both an underfunded and unknown reimbursement rate for a very long time. The Agency proposed a significantly greater appropriation for this item in both FY 22 and FY23.

As you are aware, both the 4.5x threshold and the total appropriation poses a great challenge to districts.

This one item can cause a district budget to be thrown into deficit, thereby requiring adjustments to other areas of the budget including staffing, maintenance, supplies, and any other area that can be reduced or frozen to cover the deficit. Students who deserve and require education placements to meet their needs requires funding to support them that is reliable, timely, and adequate.

The request:

- Lower the qualifying threshold for reimbursement
- Fully fund the Excess Cost line item
- Provide districts with reliable numbers earlier than Spring so budgets can be kept in balance

***H.B. 5036 AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022***

We are in the FY 22 budget now. As you contemplate deficiency adjustments per H.B. 5036, please consider the deficiency that is currently present for Excess Cost. The funding is as flat and inadequate this year as it is proposed for the next, resulting in an underfunding and deficit of this item. Any assistance in increasing Excess Cost as you reconcile the FY22 budget would be greatly appreciated, and greatly needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Jacobsen  
Fairfield  
Fairfield Board of Education Member